

COMPOSITION I

Syllabus:

Unit 1: Grammar Review

Unit 2: Personal Narrative Essay

Unit 3: Expository Essay

Unit 4: Persuasive Essay

Unit 5: ACT English and Writing

Unit 6: Literary Analysis Essay

Unit 7: Research Paper

Supplies:

For class, students will need to have the following with them every day:

- Highlighters (students will be assigned a specific color for class to highlight their name)
- Pens--Students are to write in blue or black ink only. Any other color used when turning in assignments will result in a 0% on the assignment.
- Pencils--Same rule applies about different colored pencils as it does for pens
- A 3 inch 3 ring binder
- Binder dividers-Preferably with 8-10 dividers (one for every unit as well as for bellringers)
- Notebook

Cell Phones:

Occasionally, I will let students use their cell phones in class as part of a lesson. However, if a student is caught using their cell phone during class and do not have my express permission, they will receive one warning. After that first warning, the policy in place in the student planner/handbook will be in effect.

Bathroom/Hall Passes:

Students will receive 2 bathroom/hall passes at the start of every quarter. If they do not use any, they may turn in their passes for extra credit at the end of the quarter.

Homework:

Students will be given homework on a regular basis. The purpose of each homework assignment is for the student practice their skills individually . Each assignment is crucial for students to expand their understanding. It provides the students and myself an opportunity to check their comprehension in small chunks before we move on to the next concept/skill. It is vital that students attempt every question assigned to the best of their ability. Content is best learned through individual practice and with struggle on occasion.

Summative Assessments:

At the end of each unit, students will be assessed to show their mastery of skills/concepts. These assessments could be a standard exam, a project, or an essay. Students will be able to retake any EXAM (not project or essay) to show later mastery; however, students must do so before the next unit exam.

Essays MUST be typed. Any essay handwritten will not be graded.

Retake Policy:

Each student has the option to retake the Grammar Exam ONCE and will receive the higher score. If students choose to take advantage of this opportunity, they must meet the following conditions:

- Have ALL homework from the unit complete (no missing work)
- Have no more than 2 late assignments for the unit
- Schedule a time to retake the exam

Entering Class:

Students are not allowed to enter the classroom if my door is closed or I am not outside my door.. Once I am outside my door to greet students, then they may enter.

On the table next to the door, any/all handouts that will be needed for the day's lesson will be placed. Students are to grab these handouts as they come in before heading to their seats. Once students are in their assigned seats, they are to turn in any homework and quietly begin working on the bellringer on the board.

Scholar Dollars:

In class, I will be keeping track of student behavior. Any student who goes the "extra mile" will be given a scholar dollar for every time they display this.

Examples include:

- Helping a student without being asked
- Volunteering an answer or question
- Improving attendance/ grades/ attitude
- Being a positive role model for peers
- Helping around the classroom
- Boosting a peer's self-esteem/confidence
- Cleaning up in the room without being asked to
- Etc...

Scholar dollars will be passed out at the end of every week and can be turned in for "prizes" at the store in class.

Absences:

If a student misses a day of school, they are to immediately go to the absent bin. In the bin, they are to find the folder for their class period. In their period's folder, there are 5 folders (one for every day of the week). They are to find the days they missed and get the papers from those folders. Papers will only be in for a week. After a week has passed, the handouts will be removed from the folders. Students get number of days absent plus one additional day to turn in any work missed during absence. I will have a calendar on the bulletin board above the absent bin for students to see the classwork and homework they are missing. It is the STUDENT'S responsibility to get their missing work/notes.

Late Work:**Homework**

If an assignment is turned in one day after the due date, they will get 10% off the assignment.

If an assignment is turned in 2 days after the due date, they will receive half credit.

If an assignment is turned in 3 days after the due date, the assignment will not be graded.

Essays

If the final draft of an essay is turned in after the start of class, it will be 10% off.

If the final draft of an essay is turned in the next day, it will be 50% off.

If the final draft of an essay is turned in 2 days late, it will be a 0%.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

If a student brings in the following school supplies, they will get 2 points for every package they bring in for a cap of 10 points for each semester :

- KLEENEX--this is always needed as we go through it quickly (allergies, colds, etc)
- expo markers/erasers
- hand sanitizer
- pencils--these go quickly as well
- loose leaf paper
- Highlighters
- Pens

Note: supplies MUST be UNOPENED packages

If a student saves their scholar dollars, they can purchase extra credit points to be used on whatever they wish (within the unit).

Expectations:

I expect students to respect each other, have their materials, and do their work. I expect every student to try their personal best every day in class. I understand that not everything will come easily, but everyone is capable of trying their best and being respectful.

Contact:

Email is the best way to reach me.

My email is pappasd@dwright.k12.il.us

My phone is 815-584-6298

Remind101:

I will be using an app called Remind with parents and students this year. You can sign up on the computer or through text message. However, whichever way you sign up is how you will receive messages from me. Attached in this syllabus are instructions on how to sign up for messages. With this app, students and parents can message me as well. This app allows me to remind students/inform parents about tests, assignments, and having books. The app is free to use, no actual contact information is traded, and only I can see who signed up. I strongly urge parents and students to sign up. If you and/or your child is signed up for another teacher, you/they must still sign up for my class as well as every teacher has their own code.

Students, please read over this packet with your parents/guardians. Both of you need to sign, date, and return the bottom of this paper on _____

Student Name: _____ Period: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Method for contacting parent/guardian: Phone Email

Contact information: _____

Composition 1 Syllabus